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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: PREVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT OF DYSKINESIAS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the prevention of the development of sensitization caused by chronic use of dopaminergic agents using an alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester or salt thereof.

PREVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT OF DYSKINESIAS

The present invention relates to a method for preventing the development of sensitization caused by chronic use of dopaminergic agents. Especially, the present invention relates to the use of alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonists in the prevention of the development of sensitization caused by chronic use of dopaminergic agents.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that influences on many behavioural functions such as locomotor activity and learning and it is involved in neuropsychiatric disorders such as Parkinson´s Disease and schizophrenia (Beninger 1983). Stimulants like amphetamine and cocaine enhance dopamine release in the CNS by inhibition of dopamine uptake from the synaptic cleft. When amphetamine is administered repeatedly in daily doses, the increase in motor activity is higher than after one single dose, a phenomenon that is called amphetamine sensitization. This phenomen is connected with the development of drug dependency, but it may also be considered as a dyskinesia caused by chronic use of dopaminergic agents.

In animal models of α_2-adrenoceptor antagonists, such as idazoxan and atipamezole, are known to have therapeutic effects on the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease (PD). In animal models of PD, they also after acute administration potent the motor responses of dopaminergic agents such as, apomorfine, L-3,4dihydroxyphenyl-alanine(L-dopa) and amphetamine. In addition, in PD patients and animal models where the dyskinesias are developed after chronic administration of L-dopa, α_2-adrenoceptor antagonists have decreased the dyskinesias by enhancing inhibition in so called indirect pathway of basal ganglia which is influenced by D2 dopamine receptors (Brotchie, J.M., Parkinson's Disease Advances in Neurology, Vol. 80., in Advances in Understanding the Neural Mechanisms Underlying L-Dopa-Induced Dyskinesias, Edited by Gerald M. Stern,

Lippincott William & Wilkins, Philadelphia 1999). However, the most effective way to control dyskinesias in patients is to prevent their development during dopaminergic treatment. The development of dyskinesia has been proposed to involve the overactivity of so called direct pathway of basal ganglia which is influenced by D1 dopamine receptors. According to the knowledge of the inventors the use of alpha2-adrenoceptor antagonist in the prevention of the development of dyskinesias has not been suggested or shown before.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the mean 2-h overall ambulatory activity counts ± S.E.M. after six repeated administrations of D-amphetamine 2 mg/kg s.c. and the effect of atipamezole 1 mg/kg s.c. pre-treatment 20 minutes before D-amphetamine challenge, n= 20-72. Groups: saline (days 1-8 saline); saline-amphetamine (days 1-7 saline and day 8 D-amphetamine); amphetamine (days 1-8 D-amphetamine); atipamezole (days 1-8 atipamezole before saline); atipamezole-amphetamine (days 1-8 atipamezole before D-amphetamine). Statistical significances: locomotor activity of the group compared to saline-saline –group (***P<0.001, **P<0.01 and *P<0.05) and locomotor activity of the group compared to amphetamine-amphetamine –group ($^{+++}$P<0.001, $^{++}$P<0.01 and $^{+}$P<0.05).

Figure 2 shows the mean 2-h overall ambulatory activity counts ± S.E.M. at day 9, n= 5-29. Chronic treatment groups: saline (days 1-8 saline); atipam. (days 1-8 atipamezole 1 mg/kg); amph. (days 1-8 D-amphetamine 2 mg/kg); atipam,- amph. (days 1-8 atipamezole 1 mg/kg 20 minutes before D-amphetamine 2 mg/kg). All drugs were administrated subcutaneously in volume 0,1 ml. Drug treatments at day 9: saline (saline 20 min before saline); 1 mg/kg atipam. (atipamezole 1 mg/kg 20 min before saline); 2 mg/kg amph. (saline 20 min before D-.amphetamine 2 mg/kg); 0,3 mg/kg atipam.- 2 mg/kg amph. (atipamezole 0,3 mg/kg 20 min before D-amphetamine 2 mg/kg); 1 mg/kg atipam.- 2 mg/kg amph. (atipamezole 1 mg/kg 20 min before D-amphetamine 2 mg/kg); Statistical significances: locomotor activity of the group compared to saline-saline –group (***P<0.001, **P<0.01 and *P<0.05), locomotor activity of the group compared to amph.-2 mg/kg amph. –group ($^{+++}$P<0.001, $^{++}$P<0.01 and $^{+}$P<0.05) and locomotor activity of the group compared to the chronic saline group with same drug treatment at day 9

(°°°P<0.001, °°P<0.01 and °P<0.05).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Applicants have surprisingly discovered that an alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist, atipamezole, reduced the development and expression of sensitization (motor overactivity) when given chronically in combination with a dopaminergic stimulator, D-amphetamine, in mice. Thus, alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonists such as atipamezole, and their pharmacologically acceptable esters or salts, can be used for prevention of development of sensitizational conditions caused by choric use of dopaminergic agents. The sensitizational conditions include e.g., dyskinesias and psychosis developed by chronic use of dopaminergic agents such as, apomorfine, amphetamine, and L-dopa.

Nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurons from substantia nigra to the dorsal striatum are believed to be central in the modulation of extrapyramidal motor processes. This circuitry is disturbed in PD and cause symptoms typical to PD like tremor, rigidity and difficulties in the initiation of motor actions. L-dopa has been used to relieve symptoms of PD. However, many complications are observed after continuous treatment with L-dopa, of which the most common are abnormal involuntary movements called dyskinesia (Barbeau 1974). The plastic changes in dopaminergic system controlling motor responses are thought to be responsible for development of dyskinesia. Alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonists, such as atipamezole are found to enhance neuronal plasticity (Puurunen K, Jolkkonen J, Sirviö J, Haapalinna A, Sivenius J. An alpha-2 adrenergic antagonist, atipamezole, facilitates behavoral recovery after focal cerebral ischemia in rats. Neuropharmacology 40: 597-606, 2001). Furthermore, the activation of D1 dopamine receptors and the blockade of alpha-2 adrenoceptors can cause the same kind of effect in the second messanger systems of basal ganglia. Thus, repeated administration of alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist might be inactive or even enhance the development of dyskinesias. Locomotor hyperactivity caused by chronic activation of dopaminergic transmission by amphetamine is also a dysfunction in motor activity and is also due to sensitization effect like dyskinesia seen after chronic L-dopa treatment.

The present invention provides a new solution in the pharmacotherapy of Parkinson's disease with alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist by preventing the development of dyskinesia caused by chronic use of dopaminergic agents.

Alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist of the invention include, without limitation, atipamezole, idazoxan, efaroxan and their analogs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts. 4-(2-ethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-1H-imidazole, known as atipamezole, and its pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts with inorganic and organic acids generally used for the purpose, are described in U.S. Patent. No. 4,689,339. The halogenated analogs of atipamezole, for example 4-(2-ethyl-5-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-1H-imidazole and 4-(2-ethyl-5,6-difluoro-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-1H-imidazole and their pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts have been discribed in U.S. Patent No. 5,498,623. Idazoxan, 2-(2-(1,4-benzodioxanyl))-2-imidazoline, and efaroxan, 2-(2-ethyl-2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazole and their pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts, are described in U.S. Patents Nos. 4,818,764 and 4,411,908, respectively.

To achieve optimal results, the treatment with the alfa-2 antagonist is preferably started at the same time as the treatment with the dopaminergic agent. The precise amount of the drug to be administered to a mammal according to the present invention is dependent on numerous factors known to one skilled in the art, such as, the compound to be administered, the general condition of the patient, the condition to be treated, the desired duration of use, the type of mammal, the method and route of administration etc. For example, for atipamezole given together with L-dopa, the usual daily dosage will be from 1 to 50 mg, preferably from 10 to 30 mg, divided in 1 to 4 individual doses. Thus, the most preferable single dose for atipamezole will be 10 mg. The alfa-2 antagonist is preferably given simultaneously with the dopaminergic agent.

Typical routes of administration include, without limitation, oral, transdermal, transmucosal, and parenteral routes.

The invention will be further clarified by the following example, which is intended to be purely exemplary of the invention.

EXAMPLE 1

The effects of atipamezole on the locomotor hyperactivity induced by repeated administration of D-amphetamine were studied in male mice.

Animals

Experiments were performed with C57BL/6J strain male mice from Jackson Laboratories. Mice were transferred to laboratory at least 2 weeks prior to use. The mice were from 8 to 20 weeks of age at the beginning of an experiment. Groups of 10 mice were housed in standard polypropylene cages (38 X 22 X 15 cm) with free access to standard certified pelleted food (RM1 Maintenance Expanded SQC; Special Diet Services, Essex, UK) and water. Ambient temperature was 22 ± 1 C°, and a 12:12 h light/dark cycle was maintained with lights on at 6 A.M. All experiments were carried out between 7 A.M. and 5 P.M. The animal care was performed in accordance with International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) guidelines.

Drugs

D-Amphetamine sulphate (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.) and atipamezole HCl (Orion Corporation, Orion Pharma, Turku, Finland) were dissolved in saline (0.9% NaCl) and administered subcutaneously (s.c.) in a 5 ml/kg volume.

Motor Activity Testing

The locomotor activity of the mice was measured in transparent standard polypropylene animal cages (38 X 22 X 15 cm) with transparent cover and aspen bedding on the floor. Test cages were placed middle of the photobeam frame system (Photobeam Activity System PAS, Cage Rack, San Diego Instruments, San Diego, CA). Computer control unit registered the interruptions of photobeams from 16 individual cages. Three different types of movements were monitored: 1) ambulations (large horizontal movements), 2) fine movements (smaller horizontal movements) and 3) rearings (vertical movements). Locomotor activity was measured at 5-min intervals for 2 h immediately after D-amphetamine or saline administrations.

Sensitization schedule and atipamezole treatment

D-amphetamine was administered subcutaneously (s.c.) at the dose of 2 mg/kg. Atipamezole was administered s.c. at the dose of 1 mg/kg 20 min before locomotor activity measurement.

In the chronic treatment group mice were administrated during eight days to elicit provoked locomotor hyperactivity to D-amphetamine and the effect of the atipamezole to the locomotor activity. Mice groups in the chronic treatment schedule were saline, saline-amphetamine, amphetamine, atipamezole and atipamezole-amphetamine. A day before experiment, mice were habituated to the test environment. Test groups with different drug treatments were administrated during four consecutive days. At days five and six there were no drug administrations and motor activity testing. At days seven and eight, the produced locomotor hyperactivity and effect of a single exposure of D-amphetamine (saline-amphetamine –group) were analysed. (Table 1).

Table 1
Chronic treatment

Time	saline	saline-amphetamine	amphetamine	atipamezole	atipamezole-amphetamine
Habituation	saline	saline	saline	saline	saline
Day 1	saline	saline	amph.	atipam.	atipam. and amph.
Day 2	saline	saline	amph.	atipam.	atipam. and amph.
Day 3	saline	saline	amph.	atipam.	atipam. and amph.
Day 4	saline	saline	amph.	atipam.	atipam. and amph.
Day 5	no injection	no injection	no injection	no injection	no injection
Day 6	no injection	no injection	no injection	no injection	no injection
Day 7	saline	saline	amph.	atipam.	atipam. and amph.
Day 8	saline	amph.	amph.	atipam.	atipam. and amph.

At day nine, the effect of different atipamezole and amphetamine administrations to the locomotor activity on the chronic treatment groups were analysed. Used treatments were saline, 1 mg/kg atipamezole, 2 mg/kg D-amphetamine, 0,3 mg/kg atipamezole- 2 mg/kg D-amphetamine and 1 mg/kg atipamezole- 2 mg/kg D-amphetamine. Chronic treatment groups were saline-, atipamezole-, amphetamine- and atipamezole-amphetamine groups. Chronic groups were treated following schedule in Table 2.

Table 2
Drug treatments at day 9

	Chronic group			
Drug treatment	saline	atipamezole	amphetamine	atipamezole-amphetamine
saline	Yes	No	No	No
1 mg/kg atipamezole	Yes	Yes	No	No
2 mg/kg amphetamine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
0,3 mg/kg atipamezole- 2 mg/kg amphetamine	Yes	No	Yes	No
1 mg/kg atipamezole- 2 mg/kg amphetamine	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

All data are presented as mean ± SEM. Statistical analysis were performed using SPSS 9.0 for Windows (SPSS, Chicago, IL). Separate repeated measures analyses of variance (ANOVA) were performed on each variable for each experiment grouped on time and treatment group. Results were analysed separately, because data were collected in separate experiments with different study design. When significance ($P<0.05$) between treatment groups were found comparisons at each time point (date or min) were analyzed by using LSD post-hoc test.

RESULTS

Locomotor activity

Effect of repeated administration of D-amphetamine and atipamezole in chronic treatment groups

Figure 1 illustrates the development of behavioural sensitization after six repeated administrations of D-amphetamine (2 mg/kg) and the effect of atipamezole (1 mg/kg) pre-treatment 20 minutes before D-amphetamine challenge in mice. There was a significant difference between the chronic treatment groups [$F(1,184)=1618.9$, $P<0.001$]. The activity counts were dependent on the administration Day [$F(6,1104) = 107.7$, $P<0.001$] and there was a significant interaction between Day X Group [$F(24,1104) = 53.2$, $P<0.001$]. Mice treated with D-amphetamine of six consecutive days (group amphetamine-amphetamine) showed a progressive enhance in ambulatory activity compared to saline group. At Day eight, mice from group saline-amphetamine were also administered with D-amphetamine, but there was still a significant difference compared group amphetamine to groups saline and saline-amphetamine($P<0.001$).

CLAIMS:

1. A use of an alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention of the development of sensitization caused by chronic use of dopaminergic agents.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the sensitization is dyskinesia seen in Parkinson's Disease after chronic treatment of L-dopa.

3. The method according to any one of claims 1-2, wherein the alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist is atipamezole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1-2, wherein the alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist is idazoxan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1-2, wherein the alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist is efaroxan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. The method according to any one of claims 1-2, wherein the alfa2-adrenoceptor antagonist is example 4-(2-ethyl-5-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-1H-imidazole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Figure 1

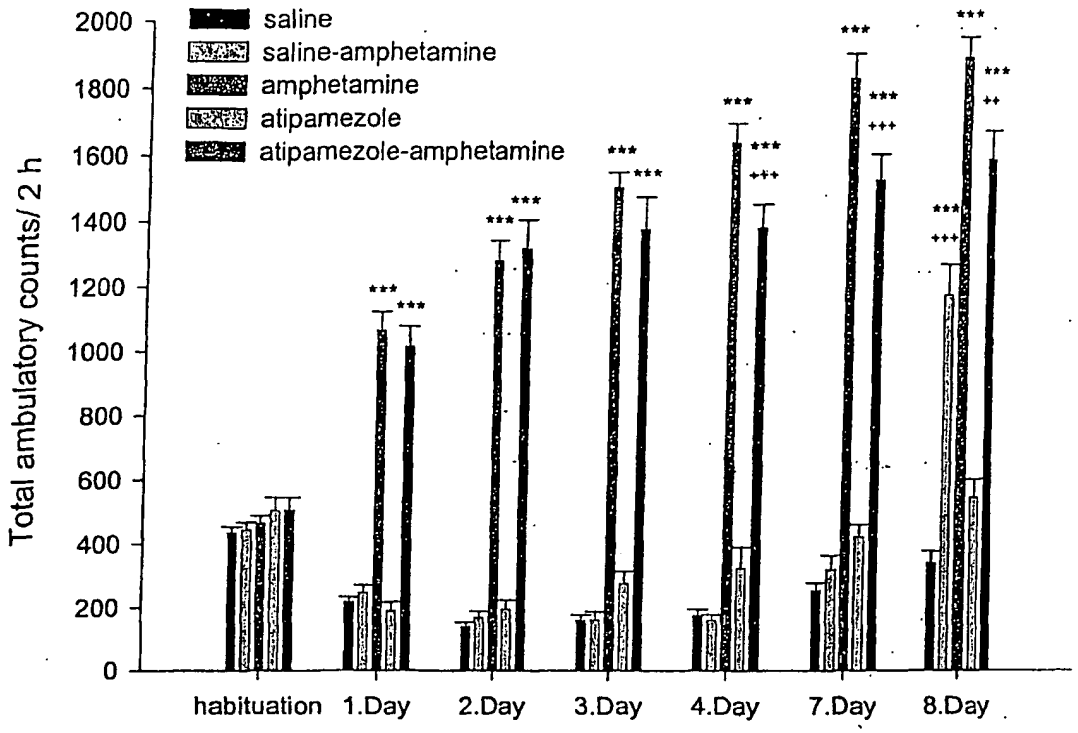
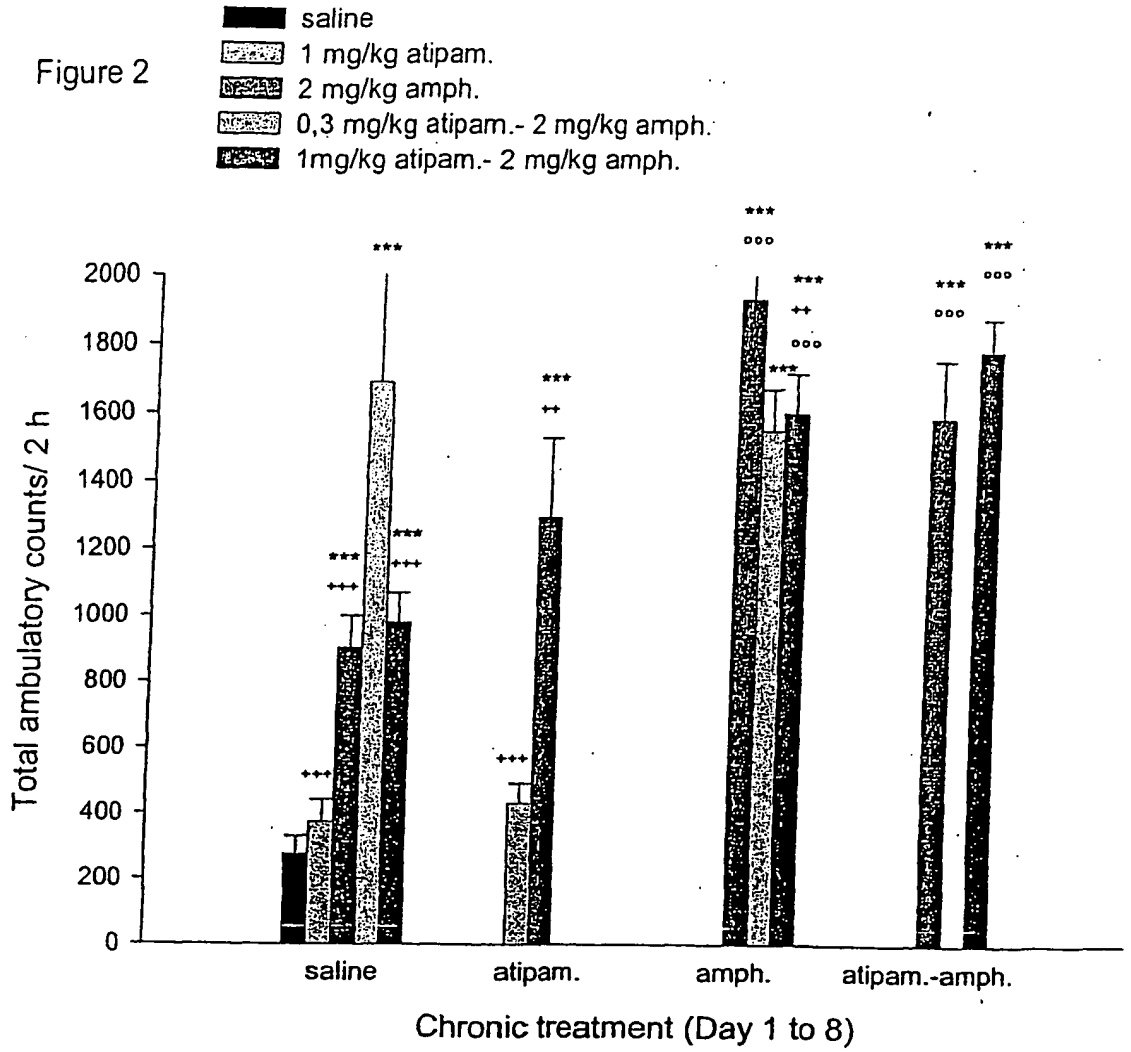

saline
saline-amphetamine
amphetamine
atipamezole
atipamezole-amphetamine
Total ambulatory counts/ 2 h
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
habituation
1.Day
2.Day
3.Day
4.Day
7.Day
8.Day

Figure 2


saline
1 mg/kg atipam.
2 mg/kg amph.
0,3 mg/kg atipam.- 2 mg/kg amph.
1mg/kg atipam.- 2 mg/kg amph.
Total ambulatory counts/ 2 h
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
saline
atipam.
amph.
atipam.-amph.
Chronic treatment (Day 1 to 8)

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WO 02/039991 A3

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61K31/4164 A61K31/4178 A61P25/14 A61P25/00
//C07D233/58,C07D233/00,C07D233/22,C07D319/20,C07D405/04,
C07D307/85

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61K C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
WPI Data, BIOSIS, CHEM ABS Data, EMBASE, MEDLINE, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BRIAN HENRY PHD ET AL: "The alpha 2-adrenergic receptor antagonist idazoxan reduces dyskinesia and enhances anti-parkinsonian actions of L-Dopa in the MPTP-lesioned primate model of parkinson's disease" MOVEMENT DISORDERS, vol. 14, no. 5, 1999, pages 744-753, XP002902469 the whole document ---	1-6
X	GRONDIN R ET AL : "Noradrenoceptor antagonism with idazoxan improves L-dopa-induced dyskinesias in MPTP monkeys." NAUNYN-SCHMIEDEBERG'S ARCH PHARMACOL, vol. 361, 2000, pages 181-186, XP002902470 the whole document ---	1-6
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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. [ ] Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

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"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
8 May 2002	13. 06. 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Per Renström

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199838 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class B02, AN 1998-439852 XP002902471 abstract & FR 2 759 291 A (FABRE MEDICAMENT SA) 14 August 1998 (1998-08-14) ---	1-6
P,X	DATABASE STN INTERNATIONAL [Online] file medline; RASCOL O ET AL : "Idazoxan, an alpha 2-antagonist and L-dopa-induced dyskinesias in patients with parkinson's disease." retrieved from MEDLINE, accession no. 2001433881 Database accession no. 21374324 XP002902472 abstract & MOVEMENT DISORDERS , vol. 16, no. 4, July 2001 (2001-07), pages 708-713, ---	1-6
P,X	DATABASE STN INTERNATIONAL [Online] file medline; FOX S H ET AL: "Neutral mechanisms underlying peak-dose dyskinesia induced by levodopa and apomorphine are distinct: Evidence from the effects of the alpha 2-adrenoceptor antagonist idazoxan." retrieved from MEDLINE, accession no. 2001433872 Database accession no. 21374315 XP002902473 abstract & MOVEMENT DISORDERS, vol. 16, no. 4, July 2001 (2001-07), pages 642-650, --- -/--	1-6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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P,X	DATABASE BIOSIS [Online] BIOSCIENCES INFORMATION SERVICE, PHILADELPHIA, PA, US; 2001 SAVOLA J M ET AL: "JP-1730, a novel alpha2-adrenergic antagonist, reduces L-DOPA-induced dyskinesia in animal models of Parkinson's disease." Database accession no. PREV200100499788 XP002902474 abstract & SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE ABSTRACTS, vol. 27, no. 1, 2001, page 531 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience;San Diego, California, USA; November 10-15, 2001 ISSN: 0190-5295 -----	1-6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/FI 01/00989

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-6
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-6

Present claims 1-2 relate to a method defined by reference to a desirable property of the compounds to be used in the method, namely antagonism of the alpha 2-adrenoreceptor. The claims 1-2 cover the use of all compounds having this property,whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Art. 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Art. 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compounds.

Independent of the above reasoning, the claims 1-2 also lack clarity (Art. 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compounds by reference to a result to be achieved. This lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Specifically, the term "alpha 2-adrenoreceptor antagonist" apparently relates to a very large amount of different compounds, which do not necessarily have to be defined as alpha 2-adrenoreceptor antagonists, thus rendering it impossible to perform a complete search.

Furthermore, the claims 1-6 are not clear and concise according to Article 6 PCT with respect to the phrase "sensitization caused by chronic use of dopaminergic agents." While this expression is unambiguous in itself, it makes it impossible to perform a complete search since it relates to sensitization caused by chronic used of all agents that are dopaminergic, including ones that do not necessarily have to be referred to as dopaminergic agents.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be claer, supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to use of the compounds mentioned in claims 3-6 for prevention of development of sensitizational conditions caused by chronic use of the specific dopaminergic agents mentioned in the description, i.e. L-dopa, amphetamine, cocaine and apomorphine.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.